

Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



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Editor's Note: The President was at Camp David, MD, on January 17, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

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Week Ending Friday, January 17, 2003

The President's Radio Address

January 11, 2003

Good morning. As a new Congress convenes, we must take steps to speed up the economic recovery and to strengthen public confidence in the integrity of American corporations. This week in Chicago, I announced my growth-and-jobs plan, specific proposals to help workers, employers, and investors across America.

For unemployed Americans whose benefits expired on December 28th, I asked Congress to act to extend those benefits. Congress did so quickly, and I signed the extension of unemployment benefits into law this week.

For Americans who face the greatest difficulty finding work, I propose special reemployment accounts. These accounts will provide up to \$3,000 to help pay for training, moving expenses, or other costs of finding a job.

For all income-tax payers, I propose speeding up the tax cuts already approved by Congress, because Americans need that relief today. Instead of gradually reducing the marriage penalty between now and 2009, we should do it now. Instead of waiting until 2008 to move more taxpayers from the 15-percent bracket to the 10-percent bracket, we should make that change now. Instead of slowly raising the child credit to \$1,000 by 2010, we should raise it now. When these changes are made, 92 million Americans will keep an average of \$1,083 more of their own money.

And for America's 84 million investors and those who will become investors, I propose eliminating the double taxation on stock dividends. Double taxation is unfair and bad for our economy. It falls especially hard on seniors, many of whom rely on dividends for a steady source of income in their retirement. Abolishing double taxation of dividends will leave nearly 35 million Americans with more

of their own money to spend and invest, which will promote savings and return as much as \$20 billion this year to the private economy.

Overall, my tax cut proposals will add nearly \$59 billion to the economy in 2003 alone.

Our Government is also acting to restore investor confidence in the integrity and honesty of corporate America. In response to the abuses of some corporations, we passed serious reforms, and we will vigorously enforce them. Our Corporate Fraud Task Force has obtained convictions or guilty pleas in over 50 cases. More than 160 defendants have been charged with criminal or civil wrongdoing. And 130 new corporate fraud investigations have been launched.

In my budget for the coming year, I will also propose major increases in funding for the prosecutors of corporate crime. My 2004 budget funding for the Securities and Exchange Commission will be 73 percent higher than 2002 levels. This will allow the agency to hire hundreds of new accountants, lawyers, and examiners.

I'm also requesting an extra \$25 million for the Department of Justice to expand the corporate fraud investigations. This will allow the Department to create 118 new positions in the FBI, including 56 agents. In addition, 94 new people will be hired to serve in the U.S. attorneys' offices and legal divisions across the Nation.

The SEC and Justice Department are the referees of corporate conduct. Under my budget, they will have every resource they need to enforce the laws that punish fraud and protect investors.

I ask the Congress to support these enforcement measures and to pass my growth-and-jobs plan as soon as possible. Our country has made great progress in restoring investor confidence and putting the recession behind us. We cannot be satisfied, however, until every corporate wrongdoer is held to account, and every part of our economy is

strong, and every person who wants to work can find a job.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:45 a.m. on January 10 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on January 11. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 10 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Proclamation 7637—To Modify Duty-Free Treatment Under the Generalized System of Preferences

January 10, 2003

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Pursuant to section 502 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the “1974 Act”) (19 U.S.C. 2462), the President is authorized to designate countries as beneficiary developing countries, and to designate any beneficiary developing country as a least-developed beneficiary developing country, for purposes of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).

Pursuant to section 503(c)(1) of title V of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(1)), the President may withdraw, suspend, or limit the application of duty-free treatment accorded under this title with respect to any article.

Section 503(d)(5) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2463(d)(5)) provides that any waiver granted under section 503(d) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2463(d)) shall remain in effect until the President determines that such waiver is no longer warranted due to changed circumstances.

Section 506A(b)(1) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2466a(b)(1)) authorizes the President to provide duty-free treatment for any article described in section 503(b)(1)(B) through (G) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2463(b)(1)(B)–(G)) that is the growth, product, or manufacture of a designated beneficiary sub-Saharan African country, if, after receiving the advice of the United States

International Trade Commission (USITC), the President determines that such article is not import-sensitive in the context of imports from beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries.

Pursuant to section 502 of the 1974 Act, and taking into account the factors set forth in section 502(c) (19 U.S.C. 2462(c)), I have decided to designate Afghanistan as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP.

Pursuant to section 502 of the 1974 Act, and having considered the factors set forth in sections 501 and 502(c), I have also decided to designate Afghanistan as a least-developed beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP.

Pursuant to section 503(c)(1) of the 1974 Act, and having considered the factors set forth in sections 501 and 502(c), I have determined to withdraw the application of duty-free treatment under the GSP accorded to a certain article from Chile.

Pursuant to section 503(d)(5), I have determined that the waiver granted under section 503(d) to Chile for a certain article is no longer warranted due to changed circumstances.

Pursuant to section 506A(b)(1) of the 1974 Act, and having received the advice of the USITC, I have determined that a certain article is not import-sensitive in the context of imports from beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries. I have decided to provide duty-free treatment to this article when imported from any beneficiary sub-Saharan African country.

Section 604 of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2483), authorizes the President to embody in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) the substance of the relevant provisions of that Act, and of other acts affecting import treatment, and actions thereunder, including the removal, modification, continuance, or imposition of any rate of duty or other import restriction.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including title V and section 604 of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2461–7, 2483), do proclaim that:

(1) In order to reflect in the HTS the addition of Afghanistan as a beneficiary developing country and as a least-developed beneficiary developing country under the GSP, and the withdrawal of duty-free treatment under the GSP accorded to a certain article from Chile, general note 4 to the HTS is modified as provided in section A of the Annex to this proclamation.

(2) In order to provide duty-free treatment for a certain article when imported from a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country, the HTS is modified by amending and sub-dividing the nomenclature of an existing HTS subheading as provided in section B of the Annex to this proclamation.

(3) In order to provide that Chile should not be treated as a beneficiary developing country with respect to a certain eligible article for purposes of the GSP, the Rates of Duty 1—Special subcolumn for the HTS subheading enumerated in section C of the Annex to this proclamation is modified as provided in such section.

(4) A waiver of the application of section 503(c)(2) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)) previously granted to Chile for HTS subheading 0811.20.20 shall be terminated on the date of publication of this proclamation in the *Federal Register*.

(5) Any provisions of previous proclamations and Executive Orders that are inconsistent with the actions taken in this proclamation are superseded to the extent of such inconsistency.

(6) (a) The modifications made by section A of the Annex to this proclamation shall be effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the dates set forth in that section.

(b) The modifications made by section B of the Annex to this proclamation shall be effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the fifteenth day after the date of publication of this proclamation in the *Federal Register*.

(c) The modifications made by section C of the Annex to this proclamation shall be effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or

after the thirtieth day after the date of publication of this proclamation in the *Federal Register*.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:38 a.m., January 13, 2003]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 13, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on January 14.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Modifying Duty-Free Treatment Under the Generalized System of Preferences To Include Afghanistan January 10, 2003

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

I am writing to inform you of my intent to add Afghanistan to the list of beneficiary developing countries and to the list of least-developed beneficiary developing countries under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP). I have carefully considered the criteria identified in sections 501 and 502 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended. In light of these criteria, I have determined that it is appropriate to extend GSP beneficiary developing country and least-developed beneficiary developing country benefits to Afghanistan.

This notice is submitted in accordance with section 502(f) of the Trade Act of 1974.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 13. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Proclamation 7638—The Centennial of Korean Immigration to the United States

January 13, 2003

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

From every corner of the world, immigrants have come to America to discover the promise of our Nation. On January 13, 1903, the first Korean immigrants to the United States arrived in Honolulu, Hawaii, on the *SS Gaelic*. Today, Korean Americans live throughout the United States, representing one of our largest Asian-American populations. As we commemorate the centennial anniversary of Korean immigration to the United States, we recognize the invaluable contributions of Korean Americans to our Nation's rich cultural diversity, economic strength, and proud heritage.

For the past century, Korean immigrants and their descendants have helped build America's prosperity, strengthened America's communities, and defended America's freedoms. Through their service in World War I, World War II, the Korean Conflict, the Vietnam War, and other wars, Korean Americans have served our Nation with honor and courage, upholding the values that make our country strong.

The American and Korean people share a love of freedom and a dedication to peace. The United States was the first Western country to sign a treaty of commerce and amity with Korea in 1882, promising "perpetual peace and friendship" between our nations. Since that time, the United States has built a strong friendship with Korea—a friendship based on our common commitment to human dignity, prosperity, and democracy. In the coming months, more than 1 million Korean Americans throughout our Nation will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the first Korean immigrants to the United States. During this time, we acknowledge and commend Korean Americans for their distinguished achievements in all sectors of life and for their important role in building, defending, and sustaining the United States of America.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim January 13, 2003, as the Centennial of Korean Immigration to the United States. I call upon all Americans to observe the anniversary with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities honoring Korean immigrants and their descendants for their countless contributions to America.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirteenth day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:22 a.m., January 14, 2003]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on January 15.

Memorandum on Waiver of Conditions on Obligation and Expenditure of Funds for Planning, Design, and Construction of a Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility in Russia

January 10, 2003

Presidential Determination No. 2003–10

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Presidential Determination on Waiver of Conditions on Obligation and Expenditure of Funds for Planning, Design, and Construction of a Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility in Russia

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 8144 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107–248) (the "Act"), I hereby certify that waiving the conditions described in section 1305 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000 (Public Law 106–65) is important to the national security interests of the United States, and include herein, for submission to the Congress,

the statement, justification, and plan described in section 8144(a) of the Act.

You are authorized and directed to transmit this certification, including the statement, justification, and plan to the Congress and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., January 16, 2003]

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 14, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on January 17.

**Memorandum on Waiver of
Restrictions on Assistance to Russia
Under the Cooperative Threat
Reduction Act of 1993 and Title V of
the FREEDOM Support Act**
January 10, 2003

Presidential Determination No. 2003–11

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Presidential Determination on Waiver of Restrictions on Assistance to Russia under the Cooperative Threat Reduction Act of 1993 and Title V of the FREEDOM Support Act

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 1306 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107–314), I hereby certify that waiving the restrictions contained in subsection (d) of section 1203 of the Cooperative Threat Reduction Act of 1993 (22 U.S.C. 5952), as amended, and the requirements contained in section 502 of the FREEDOM Support Act (22 U.S.C. 5852) during Fiscal Year 2003 with respect to the Russian Federation is important to the national security interests of the United States.

I have enclosed the unclassified report described in section 1306(b)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003, together with a classified annex.

You are authorized and directed to transmit this certification and report with its classified annex to the Congress and to arrange

for the publication of this certification in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., January 16, 2003]

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 14, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on January 17.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on United
States Individuals Involved in the
Antinarcotics Campaign in Colombia**
January 13, 2003

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Pursuant to section 3204(f), title III, chapter 2 of the Emergency Supplemental Act, 2000 (the “Act”), as enacted in the Military Construction Appropriations Act, 2001, Public Law 106–246, I am providing a report prepared by my Administration that provides “the aggregate number, locations, activities, and lengths of assignment for all temporary and permanent U.S. military personnel and U.S. individual civilians retained as contractors involved in the antinarcotics campaign in Colombia.”

In so doing, I note and appreciate the continued strong bipartisan support given to U.S. programs assisting Colombia in the Act and elsewhere.

This report is classified because of force protection considerations and the high level of terrorist threat in Colombia. However, the aggregate numbers given below are unclassified.

The report indicates that as of November 13, 2002, the end of this reporting period, there were 267 temporary and permanent U.S. military personnel and 270 U.S. civilians retained as individual contractors in Colombia involved in supporting Plan Colombia. This report further indicates that during September, October, and November 2002, these figures never exceeded the ceilings established in section 3204(b) of the Act, as amended.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 14.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland and an Exchange With Reporters

January 14, 2003

President Bush. What we're going to do here is have a couple of opening statements, two questions from the American press, two questions from the Polish press.

Let me first start by saying how much I'm honored that my friend the President of Poland is back in Washington. We're thrilled you're here. My only regret is that you didn't bring your beautiful wife with you, the First Lady of Poland.

But we're here to have a substantive talk on a lot of issues, issues ranging from the war on terror to the recent decision by the Polish Government on the purchase of U.S.-made aircraft, how best to implement that decision, to let the Polish people benefit so the decision is not only good for the defense ministry of Poland, but it's good for the people of Poland.

And the President cares deeply about the people of Poland, and we'll have a good discussion along those lines. I've got no better friend in Europe today than Poland. One of the reasons why is because this man has made a commitment to work together, as equal partners, in the war on terror, on the desire to lift the—find freedom for people who live in misery.

And so Mr. President, we're so glad you're back, and welcome back to the Oval Office.

President Kwasniewski. Thank you.

President Bush. I appreciate you.

President Kwasniewski. Mr. President, dear friends, so after very short time—because I paid official visit to the United States July last year—I am again in Oval Office, in White House in Washington, and I think this is a good sign that our cooperation, our relations are very active and very friendly.

Now we'll have consultations. We will discuss all the problems concerning war against

terror, at the national situation. And I think today is the best time to discuss, because before action, before last decisions, it's necessary to exchange opinions, of experiences, of some ideas. And that is very substantial element of my trip to Washington now.

Second, what President Bush mentioned, Poland decided to have your fighter F-16. It was very transparent, very open, and very well prepared tender, and I think we have a chance not only to have good place for Polish army, not only to have a good contribution to our NATO membership, but we have a chance to open new chapter in the economic relations between Poland and United States, and this is the next reason of my visit and of our discussion.

America has unique chance to accelerate economic activities, investment activities in Poland. We are open, we are prepared, we have good practice, we have specialists. And what is my satisfaction, America wants to do it. That's what is good news, good message for all of us here in the United States and Poland as well.

President Bush. Fournier [Ron Fournier, Associated Press].

North Korea

Q. Thank you, sir. Jack Kelly has very publicly promised North Korea energy aid in exchange for Pyongyang giving up its nuclear program. Isn't that rewarding North Korea for bad behavior, something you promised never to do?

President Bush. First of all, there's a big concern here in our country about North Korea, and I'm absolutely convinced this issue will be solved in a peaceful way. I want to remind the American people that prior to North Korea making the decision it made, that I had instructed our Secretary of State to approach North Korea about a bold initiative, an initiative which would talk about energy and food, because we care deeply about the suffering of the North Korean people.

And then the North Koreans made a decision. And the decision they made was to ignore international norm, ignore treaties that they had—agreements that they had reached and start building potential nuclear weapons,

enriching uranium. And now they have expelled—are in the process of kicking out IAEA* people.

I view this as an opportunity to bind together nations in the neighborhood and around the world to make it clear to the North Koreans that we expect this issue to be resolved peacefully, and we expect them to disarm. We expect them not to develop nuclear weapons. And if they so choose to do so—their choice—then I will reconsider whether or not we will start the bold initiative that I talked to Secretary Powell about.

People say, “Well, are you willing to talk to North Korea?” Of course we are. But what this Nation won’t do is be blackmailed. And what this Nation will do is use this as an opportunity to bring the Chinese and the Russians and South Koreans and the Japanese to the table to solve this problem peacefully.

President Kwasniewski. I agree. I think in the Korean case absolutely not to compare with Iraq’s case. And we have a chance to discuss about North Korea with very serious partners which are thinking the same way. I mean Japan, Russia, China, South Korea. We have a chance to propose something very positive to North Korea, maybe not for regime—because when I read some information about this regime, it’s not so easy to propose something—something special. But absolutely. I am sure that we have enough possibilities to propose positive solution for this case, but with all international partners.

President Bush. Would you care to call on somebody from Poland, Polish press?

War on Terror

Q. Can the war of terror be decisively won? This is a question for both Presidents. And what would be Poland’s role in the war of terror—on terror?

President Bush. Let me start. You bet the war on terror can be won. And not only can it be won; we’re going to win it. And the way you win it is you work together. You share intelligence. You complement each other’s efforts. If we find somebody thinking about doing something to our friends in Poland, we’ll share the information with this Government and vice versa. We will work

together to cut off money. And we will hunt the killers down, one at a time. And that’s exactly what we are doing and exactly what we are going to do.

We’re going to find them. They think they can hide in a cave in the outer reaches of Afghanistan. We will go in the cave and find them. And one by one, we are dismantling this terrorist network. It requires a lot of communication. It requires a lot of cooperation. And it requires a lot of patience. And this Government has got all three.

Polish American Community

Q. Mr. President, there are 10 million of the Polish Americans in the United States. What is your perception about the Polish Americans?

President Bush. I think that one of the greatest contributions to Poland to our country is Polish Americans, people who are enterprising, hard-working, God-fearing, family-loving people. One of the great strengths of our country is our diversity, and part of our diversity is the fact that a lot of our citizens were born in Poland and/or their fathers and mothers were born in Poland or their grandparents were born in Poland. Truly, one of the great blessings and gifts from Poland to this country is the Polish heritage.

Scott.

Q. Sir, Mr. President, the U.N. weapons inspectors say they need until—

President Bush. I mean Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters]. Is your name Steve or Scott?

U.N. Weapons Inspectors

Q. The weapons inspectors say they need until March, maybe 6 months, maybe a year. Is this what you had in mind when you went to the U.N. back in September?

President Bush. What I have in mind for Saddam Hussein is to disarm. The United Nations spoke with one voice. We said, “We expect Saddam Hussein, for the sake of peace, to disarm.” That’s the question: Is Saddam Hussein disarming? He’s been given 11 years to disarm. And so the world came together, and we have given him one last chance to disarm. So far, I haven’t seen any evidence that he is disarming.

Time is running out on Saddam Hussein. He must disarm. I’m sick and tired of games

* White House correction.

and deception. And that's my view of time-tables.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:28 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. A reporter referred to Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs James A. Kelly.

Remarks to Welfare-to-Work Graduates

January 14, 2003

The President. Thank you all for coming. Please be seated. Thanks for coming, and welcome to the White House. I'm especially pleased to welcome the—our fine fellow citizens who have lifted themselves out of poverty. I welcome you all here. You're fantastic examples of what is possible in America, what we hope happens in America.

I particularly want to thank Lorey Wilson and Pamela Hedrick. Each of them have incredible success stories, and Pam has agreed to share her story with us. I want to thank her family for being here as well. Both women show us the dignity that comes with work and the great hopes that have been realized through the welfare reform.

The welfare law of 1996 has enabled millions of Americans to build better lives—better lives for themselves and better lives for their families and, hence, better lives for our country. The time has come to strengthen that law, and that's what I want to talk about today.

Leading the charge will be Department of Health and Human Services leader Tommy Thompson. And I appreciate Tommy. Tommy, when he was the Governor of Wisconsin, was on the leading edge of welfare change. He was an innovative Governor. He's an innovative Cabinet officer as well.

And I appreciate Elaine Chao for being here as well. She's Secretary of the Department of Labor. When we're interested in jobs, we think about the Department of Labor. So, thank you for coming, Elaine. [Laughter] I appreciate your work.

I appreciate Bob Woodson for being here—Woody. Thanks for coming. He's the director of the National Center for Neigh-

borhood Enterprise. He's one of these innovative thinkers about how to best help people help themselves in America, make sure that hope extends to all neighborhoods, not just some neighborhoods but every neighborhood in our country.

I appreciate Rodney Carroll, who is the president and CEO of the Welfare-To-Work Partnership. His job has been to gather up people who are willing to help people go from welfare to work. And he's done a magnificent job. I remember well our meeting in Chicago with the "Big Brown," UPS, which is one of the leading companies in America to—helping people find the dignity of work. And we sat there on the stage and heard the stories of those who have gone from welfare to work. It must have made you feel good, Rodney, because you had a lot to do with helping these individuals. So thanks for coming.

John Gregory is the president of TEACH, The Enrichment Association of Community Healing. I appreciate John being here and all the rest of you for coming. Welcome. Glad you're here.

The reforms of the 1990s recognized that people on welfare are not charges of the state; they're citizens of this country, with abilities and aspirations. Both parties in Congress realize that welfare system as we knew it sapped the soul and drained the spirit from our citizens. They came together, the people of both parties, to put an end to the culture of dependency that welfare had created.

The obligation of Government did not end with just mailing of a check, and that's important for our citizens to realize. Men and women deserved a chance to learn new skills. That was an obligation of Government, to help people learn, to use their talent so that they could realize dreams, to gain the fulfillment of sense of purpose that comes with striving and working and providing for their own families.

In the 7 years since welfare was reformed, millions of Americans have shared in this experience. Their lives and our country are better off. Today, more than 2 million fewer families are on welfare—2 million fewer than in 1996. It's a reduction of 54 percent. That's a number, but behind each number is a life.

And that's important to recognize. In Washington, we spend a lot of time talking about numbers. And that's okay. It's kind of a measuring tool. But we've also got to remember, with each number is somebody's aspiration and hope.

During the period from 1996 to 2001, the percentage of welfare recipients who are working tripled. That's incredibly positive news. According to the most recent census data, the poverty rate amongst Hispanic children has reached the lowest level in over 20 years. The poverty rate among African American children is the lowest ever recorded. There's a correlation, it seems like to me.

Behind these statistics are great personal achievements. Adversity has been overcome, and lives have changed forever. I met people all around our country who can share their stories of hard work and fighting odds that have been stacked against them. Moms and dads who are—battled addiction and have overcome addiction. Folks who have had trouble holding a job and found out that they could and realized their dreams.

The welfare law is a success because it puts Government on the side of personal responsibility, and it has helped people change their life for the better, helped people realize their dreams, helped people help themselves. That's the key aspect of the—one of the key principles of the law that makes a lot of sense, that has helped make this law effective.

Last year, the House of Representatives passed legislation to build on the successes of the 1996 welfare reform law. They did so because they want more Americans to know the pride and success that come from hard work. The law passed the House—that passed the House required 40 hours of work each week. There was a serious requirement for work. Of the 40 hours, 16 of those could be used for job training or education and, when needed, treatment for addiction. In other words, the 40 hours of work was—part of that 40 hours was helping people help themselves. And that's an important aspect of any law that encourages people to go from welfare to work.

The House bill set an ambitious goal for States to have 70 percent of the welfare recipients working within a 5-year period of time. We encourage them to think that way

because we believe in setting a high bar. We believe in the best. We don't accept mediocrity. Some say it's asking too much. But a lot of those voices were the same ones that said the 1996 law was flawed. In other words, they have low—low expectations for what is possible in this society.

Skepticism is refuted every single day, however, when we meet the hard-won successes from former welfare recipients. That's the best case that we can make, those of us who believe in expecting the best and working hard to achieve the best.

We've got new data this month refuting skepticism as well. A study from the University of Michigan shows that in the States with the strongest work incentives, single parents have seen larger increases in income than in States with weaker work requirements.

Work is the key to success in helping families lift themselves out of poverty. It's the key to success for improving the lives of our children. And the strong incentives in the House bill will encourage work. Unfortunately, the Senate never was able to act on the House bill, so it died.

Today I want to remind the new Congress we have an obligation to reauthorize the welfare bill, welfare reform, to make it work. And so I'm calling upon both Houses to get after it. Let's get a new bill up, a bill that—in which the House and Senate have got to work closely to achieve the objectives that we have just set out, the idea of getting people to work, make them less dependent upon Government, to help people in need, so they can realize their dreams.

I also want Congress to provide \$17 billion a year to help the States run their welfare programs and 4.8 billion a year to help pay for childcare. Of course, there's a funding obligation that goes with the idea of setting high goal—high standards and strong goals. And since the caseloads have fallen by half, the States will now have twice the resources to spend on welfare and job training and childcare.

See, back in 1996, they were spending \$7,000 per family to help people get to work. Under this budget request, the expenditure will be \$16,000 per family. If 7,000 was good enough in 1996, it seems like 16,000 is good enough into '03 to help people get ahead.

It's important for Congress to authorize funding not just for next year but for the next 5 years, so that people who are working to help people understand there's a steady stream of funds that will help with the planning.

It's also important for Congress to work with us to get a Faith-Based Initiative going. I did a lot through an Executive order the other day that said faith programs will not be discriminated against at the Federal level. But the Faith-Based Initiative is a part of welfare reform. It's one thing to help a person get the job skills necessary, but a lot of times we need to help people with their hearts and their souls. And the only place to find that help is in the faith-based community. And so, therefore, I'm still going to stay strong on the Faith-Based Initiative, because I know of the hope and promise found in our churches and synagogues and mosques—hope and promise that can't be duplicated at the Federal level.

And as we encourage work and welfare, we've also got to encourage growth in our economy. I'm aware of that. And that's why I introduced a plan to build on the economic momentum we have going for us. We've come out of recession. The enemy hit us, and that hurt our economy. We had a few of our corporate citizens thought they could fudge the numbers, not tell the truth, so there's a—kind of startled our investor class, and the American people were shocked by the fact that too many citizens weren't telling the truth. So I signed a law that's going to hold people to account, and we're after them. For those who have cooked the books, there's going to be a consequence. We're regaining the confidence in the numbers now being put forth.

We're slowly but surely coming out of the three hits to our economy, and we need to do more. And that's why I've argued the more people have in their pocket, the more they're likely to spend. And when they spend money, it's more likely to provide jobs for people. It's the strength of our economy. And it's important for Congress to work with me to encourage consumers to have more money, investors to have more money, to take care of the aged in their retirement. And the plans I laid out recognize that the money

we spend here isn't the Government's money; it's the people's money. And the more money the people have in their pocket, the more likely this economy is going to grow. And as the economy grows, it's more likely we're going to have success in helping people.

And the other thing we can do is to do a better job for unemployed Americans through what I call Reemployment Accounts. These accounts will provide up to \$3,000 per person to help pay for training, childcare, moving expenses, or other costs of finding a job. It is a—provides incentive for people who are looking for work. If you find a job before the 3,000 runs out, then you get to keep the remainder, the balance. In other words, it's additional money to help people find work. It's money on top of the current system.

It's money that—that will recognize that power is best when it's disbursed to the people we're trying to help. It will help States on the frontlines of where there's unemployment or chronic unemployment. It's a good idea. I hope Congress acts as quickly as possible. I mean, the idea is that we want to help people. That's what we ought to do in America. We want to help people who, in this land of plenty, have overcome some incredibly tough times because of the lack of things, sometimes the lack of love, sometimes the lack of help, sometimes the lack of education. In a land where we've got an awful lot, there are still a lot of people who hurt, too many who hurt. And the role of Government is to help those good folks realize their potential. Everybody has got potential. Everybody has got worth. Everybody has got value. And the role of this Government is to help those people realize their value and worth.

Today we've got Pamela Hedrick with us today. She can talk about this better than I can talk about it, because she's what we call a success story—somebody who is willing to share her story with the good folks here in the White House.

So, Pamela, thank you for coming. I look forward to hearing what you have to say.

[At this point, Pamela Hedrick made brief remarks.]

The President. Thank you all for coming. Thanks for coming. I appreciate you all coming. For those of you who have got some influence up on Capitol Hill, remind them, it works. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:44 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Robert L. Woodson, Sr., founder and president, National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise; and John Henry Gregory, founder and chief executive officer, The Enrichment Association of Community Healing (TEACH).

Proclamation 7639—National Sanctity of Human Life Day, 2003

January 14, 2003

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Our Nation was built on a promise of life and liberty for all citizens. Guided by a deep respect for human dignity, our Founding Fathers worked to secure these rights for future generations, and today we continue to seek to fulfill their promise in our laws and our society. On National Sanctity of Human Life Day, we reaffirm the value of human life and renew our dedication to ensuring that every American has access to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

As we seek to improve quality of life, overcome illness, and promote vital medical research, my Administration will continue to honor our country's founding ideals of equal dignity and equal rights for every American. Every child is a priority and a blessing, and I believe that all should be welcomed in life and protected by law. My Administration has championed compassionate alternatives to abortion, such as helping women in crisis through maternity group homes, encouraging adoption, promoting abstinence education, and passing laws requiring parental notification and waiting periods for minors.

The Born-Alive Infants Protection Act, which I signed into law in August 2002, is an important contribution to our efforts to care for human life. This important legislation helps protect the most vulnerable mem-

bers of our society by ensuring that every infant born alive, including one who survives abortion, is considered a person and receives protection under Federal law. It helps achieve the promises of the Declaration of Independence for all, including those without the voice and power to defend their own rights.

Through ethical policies and the compassion of Americans, we will continue to build a culture that respects life. Faith-based and community organizations and individual citizens play a critical role in strengthening our neighborhoods and bringing care and comfort to those in need. By helping fellow citizens, these groups recognize the dignity of every human being and the possibilities of every life; and their important efforts are helping to build a more just and generous Nation. By working together to protect the weak, the imperfect, and the unwanted, we affirm a culture of hope and help ensure a brighter future for all.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Sunday, January 19, 2003, as National Sanctity of Human Life Day. As we reflect upon the sanctity of human life, I call upon all Americans to recognize this day with appropriate ceremonies in our homes and places of worship, to rededicate ourselves to compassionate service, and to reaffirm our commitment to respecting the life and dignity of every human being.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., January 16, 2003]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on January 17.

Videotape Remarks to the African Growth and Opportunity Act Forum
January 15, 2003

Thank you very much. And thank you, Ambassador Zoellick, for leading the United States delegation to this historic gathering. And thanks to the other U.S. Government officials, including Sam Bodman, Andrew Natsios, and others, for attending this forum.

I also thank you all for the honor of addressing this important meeting. I'm disappointed I'm not able to join you in person. I still look forward to visiting Africa later this year. I'm grateful to Prime Minister Jugnauth for hosting this forum. And to all the ministers and delegates and guests from our fellow AGOA nations, I extend the good wishes of the American people.

All of us share a common vision for the future of Africa. We look to the day when prosperity for Africa is built through trade and markets. We see a continent at peace, where the people of Africa obtain education and medical care and live in freedom. And we're making great progress, as shown by last month's free elections in Kenya.

Yet fulfilling this vision is the work of many years. It will require hard effort and true leadership and a rejection of some old ways. And in this great work, you will always have a partner in the United States.

Every nation that seeks peace faces a common enemy today in global terror. The recent attacks in Mombasa remind us that Africa is on the frontlines of the war against terror. All our citizens know the awful price of terror, and we will not rest until we have defeated terrorism in all its forms.

In this struggle, my country is grateful for the crucial support and friendship we have received from the nations of Africa. You've stood with us against a deadly threat. And we will stand with you to help bring an end to the terrible regional conflicts that bring so much suffering to innocent Africans, from Congo to Sudan to the Ivory Coast.

Safety from violence is the most basic condition of better lives for the people of Africa. And now and in years to come, we will continue working to expand trade between America and the African Continent. AGOA shows the power of trade to lift people out

of poverty. Exports from AGOA nations to the United States are rising dramatically, and the benefits are felt throughout the region. From Mauritius to Mali, AGOA is helping to reform old economies, creating new incentives for good governance and offering new hope for millions of Africans.

America is committed to building on the great success of AGOA. One important way we can do this is to give business the confidence to invest in Africa, knowing the law's benefits will continue long into the future. Therefore, I'm pleased to announce that I will ask the United States Congress to extend AGOA beyond 2008.

My administration strongly supported the AGOA II improvements, which are now helping African companies to sharply increase exports to the United States. As promised at the last AGOA meeting in Washington, the United States has opened offices in Botswana and Kenya and Ghana to ensure that African businesses can take advantage of new opportunities to sell goods abroad. Entrepreneurs in Africa often face difficulty complying with trade regulations and standards, and these offices are there to provide help. To assist African farmers in selling abroad, soon we will assign U.S. agricultural officials to each of these regional offices.

America is also working toward a free trade agreement with the Southern African Customs Union. Reaching that agreement involves complex and costly negotiations. To speed up those negotiations, my country will provide technical assistance to members of the Southern African Customs Union.

Wider trade is essential to economic growth, but our work does not end there. Many countries also need assistance to help spare their peoples from the extremes of poverty and disease. We are sending 1 million metric tons of food to help feed the 30 million people in southern Africa and the Horn facing starvation, and we are urging other nations to join us in meeting this urgent need.

The United States will also continue to lead the world in providing the resources to defeat HIV/AIDS. In addition, we have pledged to help poor countries get access to the emergency life-saving drugs they need to fight HIV/AIDS and other infectious epidemics. The AIDS pandemic has caused

extraordinary loss and suffering across your continent and the world, and all governments have a moral obligation to confront it.

To help promote economic progress in Africa and elsewhere, the next budget I submit to Congress will include a 50-percent increase in our development assistance over the next 3 years. Money from our new Millennium Challenge Account will be directed to nations that encourage economic freedom, root out corruption, and respect the rights of their people. Through the New Partnership for African Development, many leaders across the continent have pledged their governments to these fundamental principles.

America has also created a special African Millennium Fund, administered by the Overseas Private Investment Corporation. Through this fund, we will support the construction of roads and bridges, canals, and other basic infrastructure that help make economic growth possible.

Africa's future depends as well on good teachers and schools and a chance for every child to study and learn, so America is devoting an additional \$200 million over 5 years to improve basic education and teacher training in Africa. Thanks to the leadership of Andrew Natsios, Administrator of our Agency of International Development, we have also created the Books for a Better Tomorrow program. This public/private effort will, in the weeks to come, deliver \$30 million worth of books and other school supplies to Africa.

For many years, America and the world looked to the continent of Africa and saw only its problems. That era has passed. In this new century, the world is beginning to see the great potential of Africa and the goodness of its people.

Many of you gathered this week in Mauritius have helped to bring about this change. I share your confidence in Africa's future and in Africa's new generation of leaders. I pledge to you the friendship and support of the United States of America.

Thank you very much, and may God bless you all.

NOTE: The President's remarks were videotaped at approximately 4 p.m. on January 13 in the Library at the White House for later transmission to the forum meeting in Port Louis, Mauritius. The transcript was released by the Office of the

Press Secretary on January 15. In his remarks, the President referred to Prime Minister Anerood Jugnauth of Mauritius.

Remarks on the Michigan Affirmative Action Case

January 15, 2003

The Supreme Court will soon hear arguments in a case about admissions policies and student diversity in public universities. I strongly support diversity of all kinds, including racial diversity in higher education. But the method used by the University of Michigan to achieve this important goal is fundamentally flawed.

At their core, the Michigan policies amount to a quota system that unfairly rewards or penalizes prospective students, based solely on their race. So tomorrow my administration will file a brief with the Court arguing that the University of Michigan's admissions policies, which award students a significant number of extra points based solely on their race and establishes numerical targets for incoming minority students, are unconstitutional.

Our Constitution makes it clear that people of all races must be treated equally under the law. Yet we know that our society has not fully achieved that ideal. Racial prejudice is a reality in America. It hurts many of our citizens. As a nation, as a government, and as individuals, we must be vigilant in responding to prejudice wherever we find it. Yet, as we work to address the wrong of racial prejudice, we must not use means that create another wrong and thus perpetuate our divisions.

America is a diverse country, racially, economically, and ethnically. And our institutions of higher education should reflect our diversity. A college education should teach respect and understanding and good will. And these values are strengthened when students live and learn with people from many backgrounds. Yet quota systems that use race to include or exclude people from higher education and the opportunities it offers are divisive, unfair, and impossible to square with the Constitution.

In the programs under review by the Supreme Court, the University of Michigan has

established an admissions process based on race. At the undergraduate level, African American students and some Hispanic students and Native American students receive 20 points out of a maximum of 150, not because of any academic achievement or life experience but solely because they are African American, Hispanic, or Native American.

To put this in perspective, a perfect SAT score is worth only 12 points in the Michigan system. Students who accumulate 100 points are generally admitted, so those 20 points awarded solely based on race are often the decisive factor.

At the law school, some minority students are admitted to meet percentage targets, while other applicants with higher grades and better scores are passed over. This means that students are being selected or rejected based primarily on the color of their skin. The motivation for such an admissions policy may be very good, but its result is discrimination, and that discrimination is wrong.

Some States are using innovative ways to diversify their student bodies. Recent history has proven that diversity can be achieved without using quotas. Systems in California and Florida and Texas have proven that by guaranteeing admissions to the top students from high schools throughout the State, including low-income neighborhoods, colleges can attain broad racial diversity. In these States, race-neutral admissions policies have resulted in levels of minority attendance for incoming students that are close to and in some instances slightly surpass those under the old race-based approach.

We should not be satisfied with the current numbers of minorities on Americans' college campuses. Much progress has been made. Much more is needed. University officials have the responsibility and the obligation to make a serious, effective effort to reach out to students from all walks of life without falling back on unconstitutional quotas. Schools should seek diversity by considering a broad range of factors in admissions, including a student's potential and life experiences.

Our Government must work to make college more affordable for students who come from economically disadvantaged homes. And because we're committed to racial jus-

tice, we must make sure that America's public schools offer a quality education to every child from every background, which is the central purpose of the education reforms I signed last year.

America's long experience with the segregation we have put behind us and the racial discrimination we still struggle to overcome requires a special effort to make real the promise of equal opportunity for all. My administration will continue to actively promote diversity and opportunity in every way that the law permits.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:30 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to two related cases before the Supreme Court, *Barbara Grutter, Petitioner v. Lee Bollinger, et al* and *Jennifer Gratz and Patrick Hamacker, Petitioners v. Lee Bollinger, et al*. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Proclamation 7640—Religious Freedom Day, 2003

January 15, 2003

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Each year on January 16, we celebrate Religious Freedom Day in commemoration of the passage of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom by the Virginia General Assembly, which occurred on this day in 1786. Drafted by Thomas Jefferson, this historic law provided the inspiration and the framework for the religious freedom clauses in the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

The religious freedom provisions of our Constitution—the Establishment Clause and the Free Exercise Clause—open the first of the ten amendments that make up the Bill of Rights. Because the Framers placed the guarantee of religious freedom before other cherished rights, religious liberty in America is often called the first freedom. The right to have religious beliefs and to freely practice such beliefs are among the most fundamental freedoms we possess. James Madison once

said that “the Religion then of every man must be left to the conviction and conscience of every man; and it is the right of every man to exercise it as these may dictate. This right is in its nature an unalienable right.”

Our Founding Fathers recognized that religious freedom is a right we must protect with great vigilance. We must continue our efforts to uphold justice and tolerance and to oppose prejudice; and we must be resolved to countering any means that infringe on religious freedom.

Religious faith has inspired many of our fellow citizens to help build a better Nation. In America today, people of faith continue to wage a determined campaign to meet needs and fight suffering. Through the efforts of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, my Administration has been working to ensure that faith-inspired organizations do not face discrimination simply because of their religious orientation. I recently signed an Executive Order to ensure equal treatment for faith-based charities that are offering hope to those in need.

As we celebrate the freedom of faith in America, we also recognize that there are many people around the world who do not enjoy such freedoms. The right to believe and express one’s beliefs in words and practice is a right that should belong to all people. Through the Department of State’s Office of International Religious Freedom, my Administration has been working to call attention to religious persecution and to encourage our allies, friends, and trading partners to provide and protect this fundamental human right for all people around the world. By working together to secure religious freedom around the world, we can create a better future for people of all faiths.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim January 16, 2003, as Religious Freedom Day. I encourage all Americans to reflect on the great blessing of religious freedom and to endeavor to preserve this freedom for future generations, and to commemorate this day through appro-

priate events and activities in homes, schools, and places of worship.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., January 21, 2003]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on January 22.

Remarks at the University of Scranton in Scranton, Pennsylvania

January 16, 2003

Thank you all. Please be seated. Thanks for coming, and thanks for the warm welcome—inside. [Laughter] It’s great to be back in Scranton, Pennsylvania, home of a lot of really fine people and a great university.

And I want to thank the University of Scranton for the hospitality. I want to thank Father Joe McShane for opening up this wonderful facility for me, and a lot of members of the congressional delegation have come and the great Secretary of Health and Human Services, Tommy Thompson.

I appreciate you all putting up with us and giving me a chance to talk about a significant problem which faces America. And that problem is the fact that our medical liability system is broken, and therefore, a lot of Americans don’t have access to affordable health care. And I’m here to declare in Pennsylvania, I intend to work with Congress to do something about it and fix the problem.

And we’re going to need your help. Democracy can respond. People in Washington tend to respond when the people speak. [Laughter] So I’m going to spend a little time today encouraging you and those who may be watching on TV to start speaking on your behalf, to make sure that you can afford health care in America.

I’m traveling today with some mighty fine folks. One person decided to go back to

Washington to represent Pennsylvania's interest on the Senate floor. He flew up with me. I talked to him about this issue, and that's Senator Arlen Specter. I want to thank him for his friendship. It looks like they're finally getting organized in the United States Senate. And they might start voting on the appropriations bill for '03, which would be helpful. *[Laughter]*

I also was traveling with Jim Greenwood. I'm honored that Jim was on the plane. Jim was a sponsor in the House of Representatives of the legislation which I'm going to talk to you about today and which I hope I'm able to sign into law this year, to help the doctors and patients in the State of Pennsylvania. I appreciate you.

Paul Kanjorski is here as well, the Member of the United States House of Representatives. Paul, I'm honored you are here. The issue we're talking today about is not a Republican issue. It's not a Democrat issue. It's an issue which affects people from all walks of life, and it's an issue which must be solved.

A man who used to represent Scranton is Don Sherwood—I appreciate Don and his friendship—thank you for coming. With us as well is two other fine members of the congressional delegation from Pennsylvania, Todd Platts and Pat Toomey, and I want to thank you guys for being here today.

I'm honored that the mayor of Scranton, Chris Doherty, is here with us. Mr. Mayor, thank you. He was standing out there in the cold, waiting for Air Force One. That's beyond the call of duty, I want you to know. *[Laughter]* But thank you, sir.

I appreciate so very much the attorney general of the State of Pennsylvania, my friend Mike Fisher. I'm glad you're here, Mike. John Perzel is here, from—representing the House of Delegates, along with the senators and members of the House from this part of Pennsylvania. I'm honored you guys are here. Thank you for coming. Thank you for your interest in this issue.

Today when I arrived, I met Ed Gilmartin. He's what we call a USA Freedom Corps greeter. He is a volunteer with the Goodwill Industries of Northeastern Pennsylvania. I want to thank Ed for coming. I want to thank him for working with Goodwill. He is a reminder that while one of us can't do every-

thing to help heal the hurt of America, each of us can do something to help make somebody's life in your community a better place, and that, as we continue our struggle against people who are evil who would want to hurt America, that we can do so not only through the use of our great military, but we can do so by doing some good in our communities in order to fight evil. Each of us can do some good by loving a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

See, we've got some big problems in this country. I'm here to talk about one problem, but we've got some others. One is, how best to secure the peace. And one way to secure the peace is never to forget what happened to us on September the 11th and hunt the killers down, one by one, and bring them to justice, which is what America is going to do.

We will continue to confront problems before they become acute. We understand that the world was changed on September the 11th. Oceans no longer protect us from threats that may mass overseas. And that's why I've been clear about my desire to keep the peace by confronting Mr. Saddam Hussein. It's his choice to make. It's up to Mr. Saddam Hussein to do what the entire world has asked him to do. The world overwhelmingly, through the U.N. Security Council, said, "Mr. Saddam Hussein, disarm for the name of peace." It's his choice to make. So far, the evidence hasn't been very good that he is disarming, and time is running out. At some point in time, the United States' patience will run out. In the name of peace, if he does not disarm, I will lead a coalition of the willing to disarm Saddam Hussein. We will deal with those problems overseas, and we will deal with the problems we have at home as well.

We've got an economy that is not as strong as it should be, and therefore, I've proposed to Congress ways to strengthen the economy, starting with this principle: It is best to let Americans have more of their own money if you're worried about economic vitality.

If you want people to find work, if you're worried about somebody looking for a job, like I am, the best way to encourage economic growth is to let people have more of their own money. And one of the lessons that

I keep trying to explain to Washington—and, of course, these Members don't need to hear it—is that the money we spend in Washington is not the Government's money; it's the people's money.

I look forward to working with Congress. I look forward to working with Congress to create an environment in which the small businesses grow to be big businesses, in which the entrepreneurial spirit is strong and, most importantly, in which people who are looking for a job can find work.

But the problem I want to talk today is the problem with our health care system. I hope you're as proud of our health care system as I am. I mean, we're great at what we do. We've got great doctors in America, incredibly skilled, well-trained, compassionate people who care deeply for their patients. We've got great nurses in America, people who love their patients. We've got fine hospitals, fine researchers. We're on the leading edge of technological change in this country. We make new discoveries all the time. We develop new cures, and therefore, we develop new hopes for people who are sick. We're good at what we do, and I'm proud of the health care system of America.

But we've got some problems. And one of my jobs is to talk plainly about the problems and encourage people to find solutions to the problems and then get them to act. We've got a problem because too many of our citizens go without health care. That's why I proposed refundable tax credits to empower people to be able to have the capacity to get into the marketplace to purchase health care.

We've got a lot of people who go to emergency rooms for primary care, which strains our emergency rooms. It makes it hard on the community hospitals. That's why I'm for community health centers, realistic, smart ways to make sure people can get primary health care who don't have it.

Our seniors need to have a reformed Medicare plan which includes prescription drugs. We've got a system that's stuck in the past. Medicare is stuck. Medicine has become modern, and Medicare hadn't. And it seems like to me a good place for Congress to start is to take a look at their own health care system. They've got choice in the sys-

tem. Congressmen and Senators and their staffs can pick and choose the plan that meets them best. It seems to me a good principle for our seniors, to trust our seniors to make the right decisions for them.

And medical care is expensive. Out of \$100 spent in this country, \$11 goes to pay for health care. Costs are rising at the fastest rate in nearly a decade. I mean, that's a problem. Most costs in our economy are pretty well under control. Inflation is low, but that's not the case in health care. And we need to do something about it, before people get hurt.

Health care costs rise for a lot of reasons. Research is costly. Technologies cost money, and they're expensive. And some of the costs are necessary, but there are some costs that are unnecessary as far as I'm concerned. And the problem of those unnecessary costs don't start in the waiting room or the operating room; they're in the courtroom. We're a litigious society; everybody is suing, it seems like. There are too many lawsuits in America, and there are too many lawsuits filed against doctors and hospitals without merit.

And one thing the American people must understand is, even though the lawsuits are junk lawsuits and they have no basis, they're still expensive. They're expensive to fight. It costs money to fight off a junk lawsuit. And oftentimes, in order to avoid litigation and oftentimes to cut their costs, docs and therefore the companies that insure them just settle. See, so even though there's no merit, in order just to get rid of the thing, they just say, "Okay, let's just pay you. We'll get you out of the way. Instead of maybe suffering the consequences of a lousy jury and a lousy verdict, just pay them off." That is expensive to the system when it happens time and time and time again, like it's happening in America today.

And what's happening is these rates for insurance are going out of sight. And doctors need insurance to practice. Today I met with a lot of great health-givers and healers, decent people, compassionate Americans who love their patients. These are docs—I met with some patients as well—talking about the effects of this litigious society we have. And I heard stories about people not being able to pay their premiums. See, that means that health care is no longer accessible to too

many of our citizens. When a doc can't pay the premiums and therefore can't practice, somebody is going without health care. It strains the system.

So what happens is, doctors say, "Well, gosh, I can't afford it here in Pennsylvania. I'm moving. I'll just take my heart and my skills to another community where I can afford it." But when that happens, somebody hurts. Somebody doesn't have the care. Some mom fixing to have a baby wonders out loud—when she wonders out loud whether or not the doc is going to be there to deliver the baby, it's a—we heard a story, by the way, about that. It's a sad situation. There's a lot of uncertainty in our society. Lawsuits run up the costs for you, the patient. But they also create a sense of uncertainty in America for people who need the stability of good care.

I had a chance to, when I talked to the docs, to talk about people who literally had tears in their eyes when they described their situation. Debra DeAngelo and her husband are leaving Scranton to go to Hershey. They wanted to stay here in Scranton. They were raised in Scranton. I met one of Debra's patients who really needs her to be in Scranton. They chose so because they can get their insurance there, and they can't here.

This insurance issue is creating a problem in our communities all across America. People are having to move. People who don't want to move have to move in order to stay in business to be able to do their job.

Jack Brooks is a respected pathologist at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital. He was there today. He went to Buffalo. He moved back to his State, but he was turned down by three insurers when he came back to Pennsylvania. The fourth insurer's quote was just too high. He couldn't afford it. Jack Brooks has never had a claim filed against him. He's one of your leading docs here in the State of Pennsylvania. He's one of your best assets. He's never been to the courthouse. And yet, because the system is broken, he couldn't afford to be in Pennsylvania. Fortunately, he got some insurance through a hospital. He couldn't do it on his own. You've got a problem here in this State.

Greg Przybylski was here. He's a brain doctor. He has been moving from Pennsyl-

vania to Illinois to New Jersey because the costs were too high. He can't stay in business. He can't do what he was trained to do and loves to do, which is to treat patients. He talked about—when he was living in Chicago, he talked about a patient of his who had incredible complications. The guy couldn't find help in Pennsylvania, so the man drove all the way out to Chicago to be treated by Greg. That says a lot about Greg. It says a lot about his patients. And unfortunately it says something bad about the health care system, when liability costs are such that you can't get the kind of care that you need in Pennsylvania.

You're not alone, though. It's not just your State that's got a problem. We heard from an OB/GYN in the State of Florida about how she couldn't get insured. In Nevada, pregnant women sometimes have to leave the State to find a doctor. One woman called more than 50 local doctors and couldn't find one to serve her. So she's going to go to Utah to have her baby.

I was down in Mississippi recently to talk about this issue. There's a doc and his wife, who's also a doctor, who came from up north down to Mississippi in the Delta region of that State. And the Delta region has got a lot of people who hurt, a lot of people who are needy, a lot of people who need health care. And they went, not to build a giant portfolio of wealth; they went because they got great hearts. They heard a calling. They heard—he would have attributed it to the Almighty. Having watched him, I would have attributed it to the Almighty, too. He has got a fantastic heart to him. I could see that he was inspired. He told me he's leaving the Delta because the trial lawyers ran him out. He couldn't practice medicine without getting sued.

Something's wrong with the system. And a broken system like that, first and foremost, hurts the patients and the people of America. Twenty percent of hospitals nationwide have had to cut down on certain services, on delivering babies or neurosurgery or cardiovascular surgery or orthopedic surgery. That's a fact. So the problem is not only for Pennsylvania; it's a problem for our country.

And there's another cost driver. And if you're worried about getting sued all the time, then there is the natural tendency to

practice what they call defensive medicine. In other words, you order tests that someone may not need, to protect yourself in a court of law. And that's costly, and that's one of the main reasons why costs are going up. These lawsuits have got a lot of effects on our country, and we've just got to understand that.

This is an incredibly important issue for States. I obviously hope the State of Pennsylvania is able to address it. That can happen in the statehouse. When I got to Washington, I said, "That's an important issue for the States." And then it didn't take me long to realize, this is an important issue for the Federal Government too, and I'll tell you why. The direct cost of malpractice insurance and the indirect cost from defensive medicine raise the Federal Government's health care cost by at least \$28 billion a year. Malpractice, defensive practice of medicine affects Medicare, Medicaid, veterans' health, Government employee costs. It affects the Federal Government. Therefore, it is a Federal issue.

It is a national problem that needs a national solution. And here it is. First, let me just say this as clearly as I can: We want our judicial system to work. People who have got a claim, a legitimate claim, must have a hearing in our courts. Somebody who has suffered at the hand of a lousy doc must be protected. And they deserve a court that is uncluttered by frivolous and junk lawsuits. If they prove damages, they should be able to recover the cost of their care and recovery and lost wages and economic losses for the rest of their life. That's fair. That is reasonable. And that is necessary for us to have confidence in the medical system and in the judicial system.

Yet, for the sake of affordable and accessible health care in America, we must have a limit on what they call non-economic damages. And I propose a cap of \$250,000. Otherwise, if not, excessive jury awards, like those in Pennsylvania, and those I was just—one was just described to me—today a guy held up a full-page ad in your newspaper paid for by the excessive jury award. [Laughter] Excessive jury awards will continue to drive up insurance costs, will put good doctors out of business or run them out of your commu-

nity, and will hurt communities like Scranton, Pennsylvania. That's a fact. And that's why we need a cap on non-economic damages, and that's why we need a cap on punitive damages as well.

As I mentioned to you—and it's important for our citizens to understand—it is the fear of unlimited non-economic damages and punitive damages that cause docs and the insurance carriers to unnecessarily settle these cases. See, you can pretty well blackmail a doctor into settlement if you continue to throw lawsuit after lawsuit, and the system looks like a giant lottery. [Applause] Thank you.

There needs to be other reforms as well. A lot of times, these lawyers will sue everybody in sight in order to try to get something. In cases where more than one person is responsible for a patient's injuries, we need to assign blame fairly. We need joint and several liability reform in our medical liability system.

We need to make sure that doctors can take care of their patients without fear that their advice will be used against them some day. It's hard to believe a system—you hear a lot about the doctor-patient relationship. It's an incredibly important relationship, in order to make sure we have a health care system that functions well. And yet imagine a system where docs can't share information amongst each other, much less talk to your patient, for fear that what they say will be used them in court one day.

The system is not balanced, if that's the case. The system is not fair. The system doesn't need to have a relationship with the doc and the patient for fear of what is said will be used by a lawyer to sue them. That's why we need these reforms, for the good of the country.

We got the bill passed out of the House, thanks to Jim and the members of the delegation here. And I want to thank you for your leadership and your vote. And the Senate didn't act on it, so we've got to start over. And I'm ready to start over.

And the time is getting worse. That's what people have got to understand up there in Washington—or over there in Washington—down there in Washington—whatever.

[*Laughter*] Thought I was in Crawford for a minute. [*Laughter*]

And this is—I repeat, this is a national problem, and we just cannot allow a bunch of needless partisanship to prevent a good, solid solution from going forward. And let me say one other thing. This problem won't be solved by just throwing money at the problem. This problem will be solved by getting at the source of the problem, which are the frivolous lawsuits.

If you're looking for solutions in Pennsylvania, look at States which have done a good job of helping the patient out. California is one example. More than 25 years ago, they passed a law that caps damages from malpractice suits. And the law has worked.

Let me tell you a startling statistic. Reports from Philadelphia say that juries there have awarded more in malpractice damages than the entire State of California did over the last 3 years. That says two things: California's law is what people in your statehouse ought to look at, and you've got a problem in Pennsylvania.

There was a good news story in Mississippi. I went down there and—it wasn't because of me, it was because the doctors and the citizens understand the cost of a trial system gone awry, and they got themselves a law. And they got a medical liability law. They put caps, real caps. Guess what happened? In some counties, the malpractice claims rose dramatically before the law came into effect. [*Laughter*] Now, what does that tell you about the system? It tells you the system is less about justice and more about something that looks like the lottery, is what it looks like to me. And with the plaintiffs bar getting as much as 40 percent of any verdict, sometimes there's only one winner in the lottery.

We need reform. You need reform in Pennsylvania, and we need reform all across America, and we need a law coming out of the United States Congress. It's a law that recognizes the centerpiece of good health care is to worry about your patient, the American people. It's a law that will recognize that an affordable and accessible health care system can best be had if we limit the

caps—put caps on non-economic and punitive damages. That's what it understands.

Congress needs to act on this law. Congress needs to listen to the people and not make excuses as to why they can't get something done. I believe we'll get something out of the House. I believe we'll get us a good law out of the House, and then the Senate must not fail its responsibilities to the American people again.

And you can help. Every State's got them a couple of Senators—[*laughter*—and they need to hear from you. I consider your two Senators allies, but they need to hear from you. Every State—people who are concerned in every State about whether or not they're going to have affordable health care or health care at all need to contact the people that represent them. See, democracy can work. Democracy makes a difference. When the people speak, the folks in Washington, DC, listen. And I'm here to ask you to join in this important cause, for the sake of people you care about, your loved ones and your neighbors and the people in your communities.

No, we've got a lot of problems facing America. We've got the responsibility to make the world more peaceful. We have the responsibility to make sure our homeland is secure. We've got the responsibility to make sure every child is educated. We have a responsibility to make sure our health care systems work. We've got a lot of problems. But I'm going to tell you something about this country. In my mind, there is no doubt that we won't solve these problems, because this is the greatest nation, full of the finest people, on the face of the Earth.

Thank you for coming. May God bless. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12 noon in the William J. Byron Recreation Center. In his remarks, he referred to Joseph M. McShane, S.J., president, University of Scranton; Pennsylvania State Representative John Perzel; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

**Notice—Continuation of the
National Emergency With Respect to
Sierra Leone and Liberia**

January 16, 2003

On January 18, 2001, by Executive Order 13194, the President declared a national emergency with respect to Sierra Leone pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701–1706) to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States constituted by the actions and policies of the insurgent Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in Sierra Leone and pursuant to which the United States imposed a general ban on the direct and indirect importation of all rough diamonds from Sierra Leone into the United States, except those imports controlled through the Certificate of Origin regime of the Government of Sierra Leone. On May 22, 2001, I issued Executive Order 13213, which expanded the scope of the national emergency to include actions of the Government of Liberia in support of the RUF and prohibited the importation of all rough diamonds from Liberia.

Because the actions and policies of the RUF continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States, the national emergency declared on January 18, 2001, as expanded on May 22, 2001, and the measures adopted on those dates to deal with that emergency must continue in effect beyond January 18, 2003. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency with respect to Sierra Leone and Liberia.

This Notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
January 16, 2003.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register,
11:37 a.m., January 16, 2003]

NOTE: This notice was published in the *Federal Register* on January 17.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders on
Continuation of the National
Emergency With Respect to Sierra
Leone and Liberia**

January 16, 2003

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the Sierra Leone and Liberia emergency is to continue in effect beyond January 18, 2003, to the *Federal Register* for publication. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on January 17, 2002 (67 FR 2547).

The national emergency declared with respect to Sierra Leone on January 18, 2001, as expanded on May 22, 2001, with respect to Liberia, has not been resolved. Some 1,500 Revolutionary United Front (RUF) soldiers have crossed into Liberia in the past year, where they remain under arms and continue to pose a threat to the Government of Sierra Leone. They use illicit trade in diamonds to sustain themselves in Liberia and for weapons purchases. The Government of Liberia continues to support these RUF elements and give them sanctuary.

These actions and policies are hostile to U.S. interests and pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to Sierra Leone and Liberia and to maintain in force the sanctions imposed in response to the threat posed by the actions and policies of the RUF.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on the
National Emergency With Respect to
Sierra Leone and Liberia**

January 16, 2003

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I am providing herewith a 6-month periodic report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to Sierra Leone and Liberia that was declared in Executive Order 13194 of January 18, 2001, and expanded in scope in Executive Order 13213 of May 22, 2001.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders on
Review of Title III of the Cuban
Liberty and Democratic Solidarity
(LIBERTAD) Act of 1996**

January 16, 2003

Dear _____:

Pursuant to section 306(c)(2) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-114), (the "Act"), I hereby determine and report to the Congress that suspension for 6 months beyond February 1, 2003, of the right to bring an action under title III of the Act is necessary to the national interests of the United States and will expedite a transition to democracy in Cuba.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Richard G. Lugar, chairman, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Ted Stevens, chairman, and Robert C. Byrd, ranking member, Senate Committee on Appropriations; Henry J. Hyde, chairman, and Tom

Lantos, ranking member, House Committee on International Relations; and C.W. Bill Young, chairman, and David R. Obey, ranking member, House Committee on Appropriations.

**Remarks After Visiting Wounded
Soldiers at Walter Reed Army
Medical Center**

January 17, 2003

I want to thank the General for—for his hospitality at this remarkable facility, which is full of healers and compassionate people, people who are trained with the very best of skills to take care of people who have been injured badly.

Laura and I have just met with five incredibly brave soldiers, five of America's finest citizens, who have been severely injured in the line of duty. We had a chance to tell them how much we appreciated their service to America, how much we appreciated their loved ones. And we had a chance to see—some wives and a couple of moms who are anxious about—about the fate of the—of their child. And I had a chance to tell both soldier and loved one alike that their service to their country was noble and strong and good. And I appreciate that very much.

Having been here and seeing the care that these troops get is comforting for me and Laura. We are—should and must provide the best care for anybody who is willing to put their life in harm's way. And I can report to the American people that these five soldiers, badly injured in the line of service, are getting the best possible care. And our Government is providing it to them. I want to thank you all. Have a great weekend, and we'll see you next week.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:15 p.m. in the second floor lobby. In his remarks, he referred to Maj. Gen. Kevin Kiley, USA, commanding general, North Atlantic Regional Medical Command and Walter Reed. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Proclamation 7642—Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday, 2003

January 17, 2003

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., served as a voice of conscience for our Nation, and his words and actions continue to inspire courage, humility, and compassion. As a visionary leader of the civil rights movement, Dr. King helped to advance human dignity by working peacefully to resolve racial conflict through speeches, marches, and countless nonviolent activities that helped our Nation recognize the importance of upholding fully our founding ideals of equality, tolerance, and justice for all. Dr. King's enduring contributions to America remind us and countless others around the world that people should ". . . not be judged by the color of their skin but by content of their character." He also taught us that lasting achievement in life comes through sacrifice and service. His devotion to helping others reflected the true spirit of service and citizenship, and his example continues to motivate individuals to serve causes greater than themselves.

Dr. King wrote that "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." As Americans celebrate the 18th national commemoration of the life and legacy of this great leader, we recognize the lasting truth of his words and his legacy, and we renew our commitment to the principles of justice, equality, opportunity, and optimism that Dr. King espoused and exemplified.

As we honor Dr. King's accomplishments, we pledge to work for a Nation in which all people of every race realize the promise of America. No government policy can put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives; but we can and will continue to support efforts that seek to secure a Nation of dignity, liberty, and compassion.

To achieve this goal, our Nation must work to ensure that all American children have an equal chance to succeed and reach their full potential. One year ago this month, our country set a bold new course in public education with the passage of the No Child Left Behind Act, ushering in an era of accountability, local control, and high standards. This Act affirmed our faith in the wisdom of parents and communities and our fundamental belief in the promise of every child. Across America, States and school districts are working diligently to implement reforms called for by this important legislation, which will produce better results for all of our students. My Administration is committed to these efforts, and I will continue working with the Congress to enact reforms and provide support to help build the mind and character of every child from every background in every part of America. By working together to advance Dr. King's ideals of equality and acceptance, we can achieve his dream of a Nation united in understanding, defined in promise, and guided by hope.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Monday, January 20, 2003, as the Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday. I encourage all Americans to observe this day with appropriate civic, community, and service programs and activities in honor of Dr. King's life and legacy.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventeenth day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., January 22, 2003]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on January 23.

Memorandum on Pedestal Actuator Imports From the People's Republic of China

January 17, 2003

Memorandum for the United States Trade Representative

Subject: Presidential Determination on Pedestal Actuator Imports from the People's Republic of China

Pursuant to section 421 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2451), I have determined the action I will take with respect to the affirmative determination of the United States International Trade Commission (USITC) regarding imports of pedestal actuators from China. The USITC, on the basis of its investigation (No. TA-421-1), determined that pedestal actuators from China are being imported into the United States in such increased quantities or under such conditions as to cause market disruption to the domestic producers of like or directly competitive products.

After considering all relevant aspects of the investigation, I have determined that providing import relief for the U.S. pedestal actuator industry is not in the national economic interest of the United States. In particular, I find that the import relief would have an adverse impact on the United States economy clearly greater than the benefits of such action.

In determining not to provide import relief, I considered its overall costs to the U.S. economy. The facts of this case indicate that imposing the USITC's recommended quota would not likely benefit the domestic producing industry and instead would cause imports to shift from China to other offshore sources.

Even if the quota were to benefit the primary domestic producer, the cost of the quota to consumers, both the downstream purchasing industry and users of the downstream products, would substantially outweigh any benefit to producers' income. The USITC's analysis confirms this conclusion.

In addition, downstream industries are already under pressure to migrate production offshore to compete with lower-cost imports of finished products. Higher component

costs resulting from import relief would add to this pressure. Given the significantly larger number of workers in the downstream purchasing industry when compared with the domestic pedestal actuator industry, I find that imposing import restrictions would do more economic harm than good.

Finally, a quota would negatively affect the many disabled and elderly purchasers of mobility scooters and electric wheelchairs, the primary ultimate consumers of pedestal actuators.

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., January 21, 2003]

NOTE: This memorandum will be published in the *Federal Register* on January 22.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

January 11

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

January 13

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings.

In the afternoon, in his private dining room, the President had lunch with Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan to discuss economic issues.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mark Everson to be Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service.

The President announced his intention to nominate Clay Johnson III to be Deputy Director for Management at the Office of Management and Budget.

The President announced his intention to appoint Dina Habib Powell as Assistant to the President for Presidential Personnel.

January 14

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland, following their meeting in the Oval Office.

The President announced his intention to nominate Vernon Bernard Parker to be Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Civil Rights.

The President announced his intention to designate John Arthur Hammerschmidt as Vice Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board.

The President announced his intention to appoint John Emory Fleming as a member of the National Museum of African History and Culture Plan for Action Presidential Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Board of Trustees of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars: Donald Earl Garcia, Bruce Stuart Gelb, Tamala Lynne Longaberger, and David Allan Metzner (Vice Chairman).

The White House announced the President's intention to nominate Susan Neely to be Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs at the Department of Homeland Security.

The White House announced the appointment of Gordon Johndroe as Press Secretary at the Department of Homeland Security.

The White House announced the appointment of Rachael Sunbarger as Assistant Press Secretary at the Department of Homeland Security.

The White House announced the appointment of Liz Donnan as Staff Assistant in the White House Lower Press Office.

January 15

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with crew members of Space Shuttle Endeavour Mission STS-113 and International Space Station Expeditions 1, 4,

and 5. He then led the astronauts on a tour of the White House grounds.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom to Camp David, MD, on January 31 for a meeting and an informal working dinner.

The President announced his intention to nominate Dee Ann McWilliams to be Assistant Secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate Ricardo H. Hinojosa and Michael E. Horowitz to be members of the U.S. Sentencing Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint Eric Steven Lander as a member of the National Cancer Advisory Board.

The President announced his intention to appoint James Philip Hoffa and Paul Norman Beckner as members of the Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations.

January 16

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Scranton, PA, where he participated in a roundtable discussion on medical liability reform at Mercy Hospital. In the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

January 17

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council.

In the afternoon, the President went to Camp David, MD.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Ismail Omar Guelleh of Djibouti to the White House on January 21 to discuss cooperation against terrorism, regional issues including humanitarian development efforts, and combating HIV/AIDS.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Lucio Gutierrez of Ecuador to the White House on February 11.

The White House announced an upcoming visit by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines to Washington, DC, to discuss cooperation against terrorism and

U.S. support for economic reform in the Philippines.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted January 13

John W. Snow,
of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Treasury,
vice Paul Henry O'Neill, resigned.

Submitted January 14

Earl Cruz Aguigui,
of Guam, to be U.S. Marshal for the District
of Guam and concurrently U.S. Marshal for
the District of the Northern Mariana Islands
for the term of 4 years, vice Joaquin L.G.
Salas, term expired.

Eugene James Corcoran,
of New York, to be U.S. Marshal for the East-
ern District of New York for the term of 4
years, vice Daniel C. Byrne, term expired.

Allen Garber,
of Minnesota, to be U.S. Marshal for the Dis-
trict of Minnesota for the term of 4 years,
vice Charles Lester Zacharias, term expired.

Vernon Bernard Parker,
of Arizona, to be an Assistant Secretary of
Agriculture (new position).

Submitted January 15

Cecilia M. Altonaga,
of Florida, to be U.S. District Judge for the
Southern District of Florida, vice Shelby
Highsmith, retired.

Dee D. Drell,
of Louisiana, to be U.S. District Judge for
the Western District of Louisiana, vice F.A.
Little, Jr., retired.

Joseph Robert Goeke,
of Illinois, to be a Judge of the U.S. Tax
Court for a term of 15 years after he takes
office, vice Herbert L. Chabot.

Patricia Head Minaldi,
of Louisiana, to be U.S. District Judge for
the Western District of Louisiana, vice James
T. Trimble, Jr., retired.

Robert A. Sturgell,
of Maryland, to be Deputy Administrator of
the Federal Aviation Administration, vice
Linda Hall Daschle.

Submitted January 16

Ricardo H. Hinojosa,
of Texas, to be a member of the U.S. Sen-
tencing Commission for a term expiring Oc-
tober 31, 2007, vice Joe Kendall, term ex-
pired.

Michael E. Horowitz,
of Maryland, to be a member of the U.S.
Sentencing Commission for a term expiring
October 31, 2007, vice Sterling Johnson, Jr.,
term expired.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office
of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as
items nor covered by entries in the Digest of
Other White House Announcements.

Released January 11

Fact sheet: Restoring Economic Confidence
and Tackling Corporate Fraud

Released January 13

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Sec-
retary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing
that the President signed a proclamation des-
ignating Afghanistan as a beneficiary devel-
oping country under the Generalized System
of Preferences program

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 11

Released January 14

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Fact sheet: President Calls for Action on Welfare Reform

Announcement of nominations for U.S. Marshals for the Eastern District of New York, the District of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, and the District of Minnesota

Released January 15

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Fact sheet: U.S.–Sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum

Statement by the Press Secretary on the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom

Announcement of nominations for U.S. District Judges for the Western District of Louisiana (2) and the Southern District of Florida

Announcement of nomination for a Judge of the U.S. Tax Court

Released January 16

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Fact sheet: President Calls for Medical Liability Reform

Released January 17

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Meeting With President Ismail Omar Guelleh of the Republic of Djibouti

Statement by the Press Secretary: President Lucio Gutierrez of Ecuador To Visit Washington

Statement by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on her advice to the President on how diversity can be best achieved on university campuses

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved January 13

H.R. 11 / Public Law 108–3

National Flood Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2003